



Institute of General Semantics
founded in 1938 by Alfred Korzybski

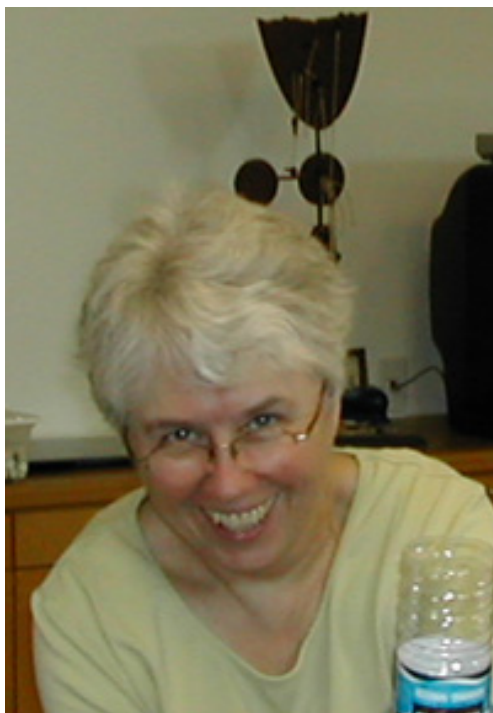
IGS *Time-Bindings* Newsletter Vol. 24, No. 2, 2Q2006

June 30, 2006

Greetings!

Welcome to the June 2006 issue of the IGS newsletter, *Time-Bindings*. Please take a few minutes to read about what's been going on with the Institute and make plans now to attend the exciting events on the horizon.

Read House Hosts First Seminar-Workshop (Nora Miller)



From June 12-16, the Institute hosted its first week-long Seminar-Workshop since moving into Read House. Nine students attended for the full week and several more participated on one or more days. As one of the week-long participants, I got a chance to get to know the other participants, and to enjoy the resources of Read House—the comfortable Irving J. Lee Seminar Center, the library, supporting services like the easy-to-use and well-designed network and audio-visual technology, and the convenient kitchen and break area.

The interaction of the participants bloomed during the week, amplified by the enthusiasm of students like Gary Chapin, a teacher at Hall-Dale Schools in Maine. At the end of the week, he declared his expectations were overwhelmingly exceeded: "I need to tell you all what an extraordinary time I had...I can't thank you enough. It was easily amongst the coolest experiences of my life." Several other participants echoed those sentiments, noting "I feel like I have learned so much this week about others, the world, myself, this discipline, etc." and "I can't think of it as a workshop because to me it transcended that definition."

For me, the seminar provided many welcome insights and experiences. Most important, to me, I gained a renewed appreciation for how easily the principles and practices of general semantics can profoundly shift a viewpoint from something intensional, narrow and perhaps self-defeating to something more realistic, accurate and self-accepting. Every day, or more accurately, about every hour, a light went on somewhere in the room as people put the formulations into practice in their own heads and found a new, positive way to handle an old hurt or confusion.

I also came to appreciate how much the Institute benefits from such an effort (and effort it was, I know). Several of these participants will return to their lives and their work with the firm intention of incorporating GS into their curriculum or business or personal lives. This sharing can only reflect well on the Institute and widen the circle of friends that want to know more and teach more about this useful and important way of thinking about the world.

In addition to Gary, other week-long participants included: Jeff Rulifson (Menlo Park, CA); Frank Nason (Las Vegas, NV); Lucile Redmore (Buchanan Dam, TX); Bonnie Creel (Fort Worth, TX); John Wilson (Dallas, TX); IGS staff members Erica Gann and Kristen Harford. Daily attendees included: Richard Austin (Plano, TX); Bill Holt (Fort Worth); Tom Kellam (Fort Worth); Jane Arrowsmith (Fort Worth); and Melissa Young (Fort Worth).

"Making Sense" Conference - Register Now! (Nora Miller)

If you want a taste of the kind of enthusiasm and meaning-making experienced by the seminar participants, consider attending the "Making Sense" International Conference on General Semantics, October 27-28, 2006, in Arlington, Texas (near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.) Better still, come early and join the two and a half day pre-conference workshop on "Making Sense by Coming to Our Senses," October 24-26 at Read House in Fort Worth. The workshop will review some of the basic GS principles, then attendees will choose current topics and use GS formulations to discuss and analyze media coverage and social reactions regarding the topic. The workshop will hone your evaluation skills for the conference that follows.

The conference will feature presentations, panels, and other forms of participant interaction in response to questions like "How do we make sense?" and "How do we know?" Some of the scheduled presentation titles include: *Making Sense Constructively*, *Garden Variety General Semantics*, *General Semantics and Emotional Intelligence*, *A Universe of Rhythms*, *GS: Key to Understanding the Brain*, *A 'New Sort of Person'*, and *Making Sense: Changing Futures for Families*. Other presentation titles and the complete agenda will be published on the IGS website as soon as details are finalized.

During the Saturday evening banquet, Dr. Renee Hobbs, Associate Professor of Communication at Temple University, will present the 54th annual Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture.

Keep these links handy: ["Making Sense" Conference Details](#); [Pre-Conference Workshop Information](#); [Hilton Hotel reservations for the conference](#)

New Program Initiatives (Erica Gann)



As part of my new role to bring general semantics to a wider audience and help enrich those already familiar with GS, here are some of the things I've started to work on:

- **IGS is on MySpace.com** Check out the new IGS page at www.myspace.com/generalsemantics. I attempted to make the page have a similar look and feel as the IGS website. It has brief explanations of GS and the Institute, a "what is going on" calendar-type section, related quotes, books we sell online, and several links to the IGS website. After creating the page, I spent considerable time searching the MySpace people and organization listings for phrases like "general semantics," "critical thinking," and "cognitive psychology." Then I glanced through the search results and sent invitations to those I thought might find our GS page interesting. In just the first ten days, I'm very pleased that we've already gained over 100 "friends." I also made a conscious effort to find the local businesses/organizations that have MySpace pages and invited them to become a friend as well. Our presence on MySpace.com will expose us to to many younger people who probably would have no other avenue to learn about GS. I hope to use our MySpace presence for future endeavors revolving around the creation of a GS group in the Fort Worth area.
- I'm preparing a program presentation for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) annual convention in November in Nashville. I'll apply a GS orientation to address the topic of "Completely Understanding Diversity: Recognizing that individuals bring their own knowledge, experience, and research to the classroom."

- We've made several local contacts with schools and organizations that may well result in some collaboration with the Institute, including: Fort Worth Country Day School, the new TCU Center for Civic Literacy, Daggett Elementary School across the street from Read House, and a major nonprofit that provides shelter services for women in need.
- I'm working with Steve Stockdale to develop new GS workbooks and curricula that focus on practical applications of general semantics. We'll use some of this material in the new "General Semantics in Mass Communications" course we'll teach at TCU in the fall. And we intend to have some of these new materials available for sale at NCTE.
- I'll attend a conference given by the Sensory Awareness Foundation in October, returning just in time to participate in our "Making Sense" conference in Arlington.

I'm very proud to be a part of the IGS team and look forward to exciting times ahead.

Event-Level Notes

- The July issue of *ETC: A Review of General Semantics* is in the mail. Look for the colorful cover with commissioned artwork by Katie Croke: "America the Borderful: Looking Out, Seeing In."
- The IGS online **Discussion Board** continues to grow each month. As of the end of June we have 339 registered users. The Discussion Board is free and registration is easy. [Click here](#).
- **Hurry! 50% off Summer Book Sale!** Once again, IGS is offering the most popular collections of books at 50% off normal member prices. Don't miss out on 50% savings on these multi-book collections: **Korzybski** (*Science and Sanity, Manhood of Humanity, Collected Writings, Olivet Seminar Lectures*); **Classics** (*People in Quandaries, Language Habits in Human Affairs, The Art of Awareness, Levels of Knowing and Existence*); **Mary Morain** (*Classroom Exercises, Bridging Worlds through GS, Teaching GS, Enriching Professional Skills*); **E-Prime** (Volumes 1, 2, and 3), **Anthologies** (*GS and Psychotherapy, Thinking and Living Skills, Thinking Creatively*); **Berman** (*Words, Meanings, and People, Why do we jump to conclusions, How to lessen misunderstanding, Understanding and Being Understood*); **Management** (*Common Sense Management, Enriching Professional Skills, Communication: The Transfer of Meaning, MacNeal's Master Atlas of Decision-Making, Understanding Each Other*)

If you have items of interest, announcements, commendations or suggestions for future newsletters, please [contact the office](#). And please keep us updated with your latest contact information, including email.

Best regards,



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